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William W. Luk

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Applicant: Erwan Le Roy and William B. Thompson)
Grp Art Unit: 2812)
Assignee: Credence Systems Corporation)
Ex: Olivia T. Luk)
Serial Number: 10/789,336)
Filed: February 27, 2004)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF)
MATERIAL/VOLTAGE CONTRAST)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 3, 2005.

Please send future correspondence to:

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The Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement wherein the Applicant is requested to elect one from groups I-VI as described in the Office Action. The Applicant respectfully traverses this requirement. The Applicant asserts that all claims are directed to the same invention and that the method and apparatus claims are interrelated. In particular, group III, method claims 58-67, are directed to a method for determining the cross sectional profile which requires and is an extension of group I, the method for establishing a non-transient voltage contrast. These groups are disclosed as capable of use together and do include the same mode of operation.

In the event that this traversal is not upheld, the Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-56.

Respectfully submitted,



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